DEPARTMENT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



February 25, 1975

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 75-46

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS



Superseded by ACL #77-15

Issued 3-17-7)

SUBJECT: COUNTY QUALITY CONTROL - CORRECTIVE ACTION REGULATIONS

(DIVISION 15, OPERATIONS MANUAL) IMPLEMENTATION

REFERENCE:

In order to ensure that AFDC recipients obtain exactly the amount of money to which they are entitled, a goal of the Department of Benefit Payments is to establish a constructive, cost-beneficial, statewide AFDC Quality Control - Corrective Action system.

By providing the framework for the state and counties to work together, recent state regulations describing requirements for county level Quality Control - Corrective Action programs represent a major milestone in this system. The regulations, which became effective January 23, 1975, are based, in part, on the error reduction programs already in use by many counties and provide the added dimension of Department of Benefit Payments assistance in extending successful Quality Control - Corrective Action concepts to all counties.

The regulations have been issued at a time when many counties can already take great pride in their improved ability to accurately determine AFDC eligibility and grants. These decisive county actions have significantly contributed to reduction of California's error rate, making it one of the lowest in the nation among the large states.

To assist in implementing the new regulations, we have enclosed a preprinted Quality Control - Corrective Action Plan. Consistent with Section 15-405 of the regulations, please complete and return the plan to:

Department of Benefit Payments AFDC Program Operations Bureau 744 P Street, MS 16-30 Sacramento, CA 95814

Quality Control - Corrective Action Plans are due by April 1, 1975. You will receive a response to your plan no later than May 4, 1975.

In addition to the preprinted QC-CA plan there are several documents enclosed to assist you in planning and implementing your Quality Control - Corrective Action program:

The California Quality Control Model

The QC Model has been developed as a means of reducing eligibility and grant errors by involving all three levels of government (Federal, State, County) in the Quality Control - Corrective Action process. It has been included to provide information on the background of the new regulations, and may additionally serve as a guide for establishing your QC-CA program. The Department of Benefit Payments and several county welfare departments have implemented Model concepts and procedures, and view them as a sound approach to error reduction.

We are continuing our effort to increase Federal involvement, particularly as related to errors resulting from problem Federal regulations.

The HEW Quality Control Manual/3000

The QC Manual/3000 describes the procedures used by the state and federal staffs for sample selection, home visits, third party contacts, acceptable types of verification, and instructions on the use of the federal review forms. This valuable tool is now being used by many counties as a basis for their QC programs.

QC County Sampling Instructions

The QC county sampling instructions are provided for informational purposes. The procedures are suggested for those counties electing to choose their own sample. Random number tables will continue to be furnished to all counties every six months.

Questions and Answers

These are answers to questions received from counties and answers to anticipated questions on general aspects of the regulations.

Our Quality Control and AFDC Program Operations Bureaus will be using a teamwork approach in assisting counties with implementation. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions or desire assistance. Addresses and telephone numbers of state personnel to be contacted are attached.

County contributions to the development of the new regulations have been invaluable. The continued support of all counties is essential in implementing the regulations to further reduce errors and achieve our mutual goal of a controlled and equitable AFDC program.

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DENNIS O. FLATT Deputy Director

Enclosures

cc: CWDA

COUNTY QUALITY CONTROL - CORRECTIVE ACTION REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTATION

DEPARTMENT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS CONTACTS

For assistance or questions regarding quality control sampling procedures or a specific case encountered in the error identification phase, contact:

Department of Benefit Payments Administrative Support Unit Welfare Program Evaluation Branch 744 P Street, MS 19-10 Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (916) 445-0220

For assistance or questions regarding <u>implementation</u> or <u>evaluation</u> of the <u>error</u> identification phase of the QC-CA process, contact the Quality Control Regional Manager for your county:

Frank W. Walker Southern Region Quality Control 107 South Broadway - Room 6106 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Telephone: (213) 620-5976

Southern Region Counties

Imperial Los Angeles Orange Riverside San Bernardino San Diego San Luis Obispo Santa Barbara Ventura

> Leon Dixson Northern Region Quality Control 926 J Street - Room 422 Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (916) 322-2164

Northern Region Counties

Alpine Amador Butte Calaveras Colusa Del Norte El Dorado Fresno Glenn Humboldt Inyo Kern Kings Lassen Madera Mariposa Merced Modoc Mono Nevada Placer Plumas Sacramento San Joaquin Shasta Sierra Siskiyou Solano Stanislaus Sutter Tehama Trinity Tulare Tuolumne Yolo Yuba

> Cosmo Riviello Coastal Region Quality Control 1407 Market Street - Room 300 San Francisco, CA 94103 Telephone: (415) 557-0137

Coastal Region Counties

Alameda Contra Costa Lake Marin Mendocino Monterey Napa San Benito San Francisco San Mateo Santa Clara Santa Cruz Sonoma

For assistance or questions regarding how to organize for QC-CA and planning and implementation of actions designed to reduce errors, contact your county's AFDC Management Consultant at:

AFDC Program Operations Bureau 744 P Street, Mail Station 16-30 Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (916) 445-4458



COUNTY OF

PLANFOR QUALITY CONTROL CORRECTIVE ACTION

| COUNTY QUALITY CONTROL | - CORRECTIVE | ACTION PLAN |
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This plan, when filled out, signed by the County Welfare Director, and approved by the Department of Benefit Payments, constitutes the county's commitment to implement the Quality Control — Corrective Action program outlined below.

| ٦. | The individual responsible for the overall cour | nty QC — CA program is |
|----|---|---|
| | | Title |
| | Telephone Number | <u> </u> |
| | The departmental unit responsible for the Er | ror Identification phase of the $QC-CA$ process is |
| | | . The individual responsible for this phase is |
| | | Title |
| | Telephone Number | |
| С. | The departmental unit responsible for the Err | or Analysis phase of the QC — CA process is |
| | | The individual responsible for this phase is |
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| | | Title |
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| G. | The department's Quality Control Coordinator is |
|----|---|
| | TitleTelephone Number |
| Н. | The departmental unit and/or individual responsible for producing the quarterly QC — CA report |
| | to the Department of Benefit Payments is |
| | TitleTelephone Number |
| 1. | To insure the necessary commitment of departmental resources to Quality Control — Corrective Action, top management will be involved in the process in the following manner (e.g., a QC — CA Committee, involvement in decision-making, other forms of management involvement): |
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II. PHASE ONE - ERROR IDENTIFICATION (15-310)

You are encouraged to follow Federal QC regulations as they pertain to the review process mandated by the Federal government on the states; however you may use another error identification process approved by the Department of Benefit Payments.

| Α. | | We will implement and follow Federal quality control regulations contained in QC Manual 3000 s they apply to the error identification process. | | |
|----|------|--|--|--|
| | | Yes, without modification. | | |
| | | Yes, with modification. | | |
| | | No. | | |
| | If y | f yes, with modification, or no, provide the following: | | |
| | 1. | Describe the proposed error identification procedure (attach additional pages as necessary): | | |
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| | 2. | Attach the forms to be used in the proposed error identification procedure, if different from federal forms. | | |
| В. | Prov | Provide the following: | | |
| | 1. | Monthly amount of staff time (in hours) committed to error identification in the AFDC | | |
| | | program: man hours. | | |
| | 2. | The size of the monthly sample for error identification: cases per month. | | |
| C. | We | desire the state to select the monthly sample of cases from the CID file. | | |
| | | Yes No | | |

(Refer to enclosed sampling instructions. The CID is a file of individuals issued Medi-Cal cards from the State Department of Health. The sampling universe from which AFDC quality control samples are selected includes only those Medi-Cal card holders receiving AFDC. AFDC samples are selected from the CID file usually between the fourth and seventh calendar day of each month.)

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III. PHASE TWO - ERROR ANALYSIS (15-315)

error arrays. A. We request monthly computer error arrays by the Department of Benefit Payments. Yes No B. In addition to error arrays by case error rate, dollar error rate, error element, and source of error, generated either by the state or the county, please indicate which of the following optional arrays will be used: By system. By individual worker or unit. By manual section. By potential corrective action. Other. Explain: Describe the process by which errors will be analyzed to identify corrective action alternatives, (e.g., identifying concentrations, interviewing line staff, systems review, sources of error):

If federal review forms will be used, the state will, upon request, provide monthly computer generated

IV. PHASE THREE - CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANNING (15-320)

| Describe the Corrective Action Planning phase (the process by which the county will decide what corrective actions to implement and how) as it will be implemented in the county. The following must be considered: Identifying corrective action alternatives, allocating resources, top management involvement, priorities of selected corrective actions, cost-benefit analysis when appropriate, staff participation, maintenance of documentation. |
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PHASE FOUR - CORRECTIVE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION (15-325) Describe the Corrective Action Implementation phase as it will be implemented in the county. The following must be considered: Proposed method(s) and procedure(s) for monitoring the progress of implemented corrective actions, implementation timetables with milestones, assignment of implementation responsibilities.

VI. PHASE FIVE - CORRECTIVE ACTION EVALUATION (15-330)

| following must be con | ve Action Evaluation phase as it will be implemented in the county. The sidered: Proposed methods of evaluation, cost-benefit evaluation as appropriate aff interviews, comparison of actual versus anticipated benefits of implemented |
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VII. QC - CA IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

| Α. | The | elements of our QC - CA program, ou | tlined in this plan, are (check o | ne): |
|-------|---------|--|--|------------------|
| | 1. | Fully implemented. | | |
| | 2. | Partially implemented. | | |
| | 3. | Will be implemented. | | |
| В. | Con | nplete the following: | | |
| | Elei | nent | Implementation Target Date | Date Implemented |
| | 1. | Organization for QC — CA | | |
| | 2. | Operational QC - CA process | | |
| | | Phase I | | |
| | | Phase II | | Barrier |
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